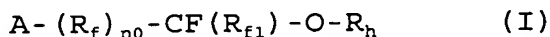


PROCESS FOR PREPARING HYDROFLUOROETHERS

ABSTRACT

Process for obtaining hydrofluoroethers of formula (I):



wherein: n_0 is zero or 1; R_f is a bivalent radical:

C_1-C_{20} (per)fluoroalkylene, optionally containing one or more oxygen atoms;

$-CFW'O-(R_{f2})-CFW-$, wherein W and W' , equal or different, are F , CF_3 ; R_{f2} is a (per)fluoropolyoxyalkylene;

R_{f1} is F or a C_1-C_{10} (per)fluoroalkyl or (per)fluoro-oxyalkyl radical;

R_h is a C_1-C_{20} linear, branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl, or C_7-C_{20} alkylaryl,

$A = F$, $(R_{h2}O)-CF(R_{f4})-$, $-C(O)F$, wherein R_{h2} , equal to or different from R_h , has the R_h meanings and R_{f4} , equal to or different from R_{f1} , has the R_{f1} meanings;

wherein a mono- or bifunctional carbonyl compound of formula (IV):



B being F or $-C(O)R_{f4}$, R_f , R_{f1} and R_{f4} being as above, is reacted with at least one equivalent of a fluoroformate of formula (III):



wherein $R = R_h$ or R_{h2} as above defined;

in the presence of an ion fluoride compound (catalyst) and of a dipolar aprotic organic compound, liquid and inert under the reaction conditions.